

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/813,610

Examiner

Rodney H. Bonck

Applicant(s)

WAKABAYASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received December 16, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,5,13,14 and 20-23.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 09/29/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 01112006
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

The following action is in response to the amendment received December 16, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 5, 13, 14, and 20-23 are allowed. Claims 1, 5, 13, 21-23, 14 and 20 will be renumbered for printing as claims 1-8, respectively.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a dry multi-disc clutch as defined in claim 1, wherein the clutch outer member is configured to act as an axial fan, the pressure plate is configured to act as a centrifugal fan, and the portion of the outer member forming the axial fan and the portion of the pressure plate forming the centrifugal fan are substantially parallel.

The art of record also fails to show or teach a dry multi-disc clutch as defined in claim 14, wherein the clutch outer member is configured to form an axial fan by means of openings formed on the radially extending base portion of the clutch outer member and the pressure plate is configured to form a centrifugal fan by means of plural elongate pressure plate fins extending from an inner peripheral edge of a body portion of the pressure plate to an outer peripheral edge of the body portion along a curved line.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Information Disclosure Statement

Receipt is acknowledged of the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 29, 2005. The cited documents have been considered. Two cited U.S. patents are lined-through because they are already of record. It is further noted that U.S. Patent No. 5,421,458 and Japanese document JP 07-319755 do not appear to be related to the instant invention.

Drawings

The replacement sheets of drawings were received on December 16, 2005. These drawings are acceptable.

Response to Amendment

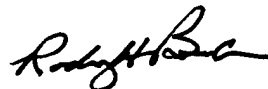
In the previous Office action claims 4, 10-12, 17, and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The amendment of December 16, 2005 cancels these claims. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 4, 10-12, 17, and 19 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn.

The claims as amended in the response filed December 16, 2005 are deemed allowable over the prior art for the reasons set forth above under "Reasons for Allowance". Therefore, the rejections under 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a) set forth in the previous Office action are withdrawn.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney H. Bonck whose telephone number is (571) 272-7089. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

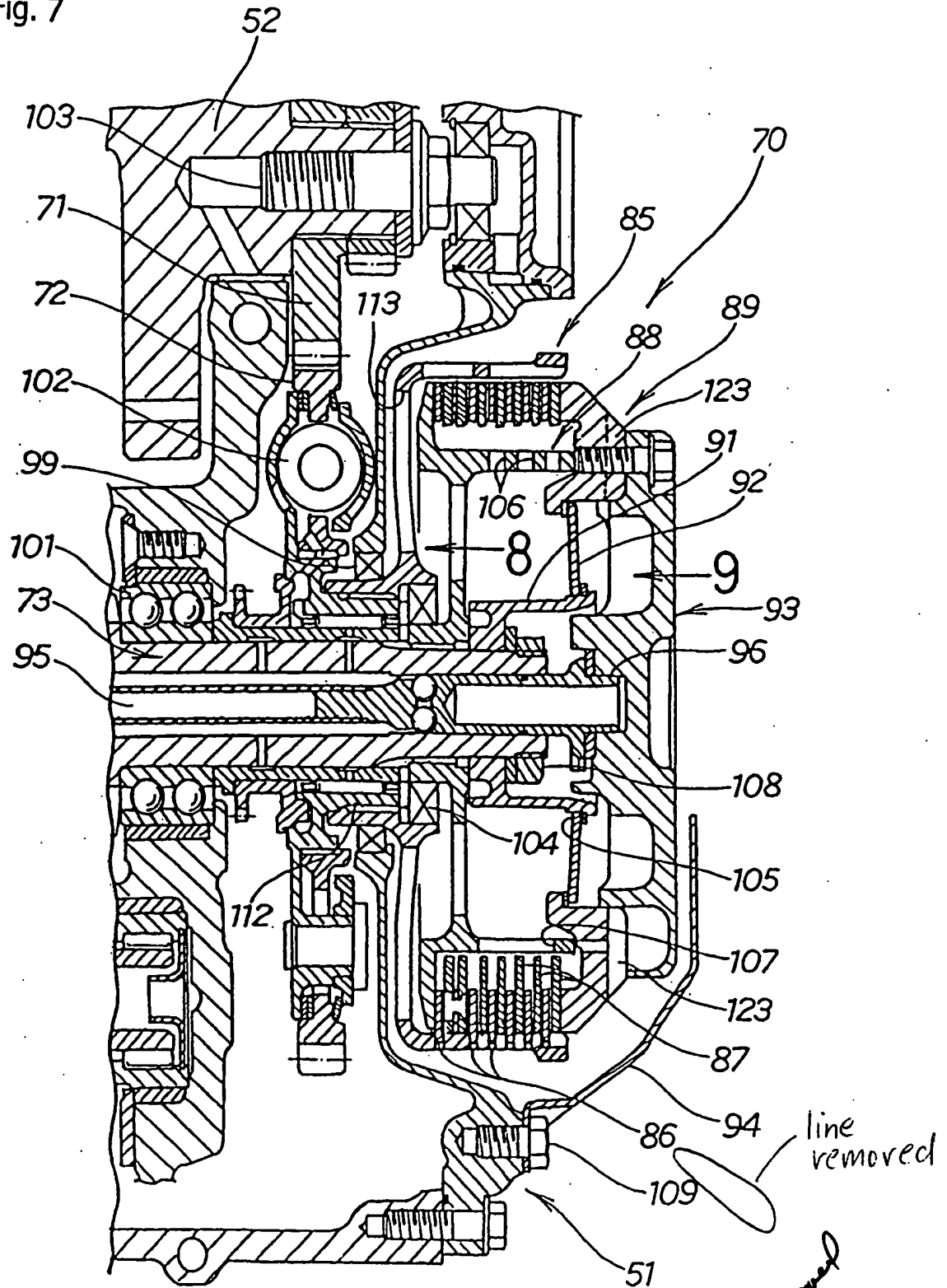
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Rodney H. Bonck
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

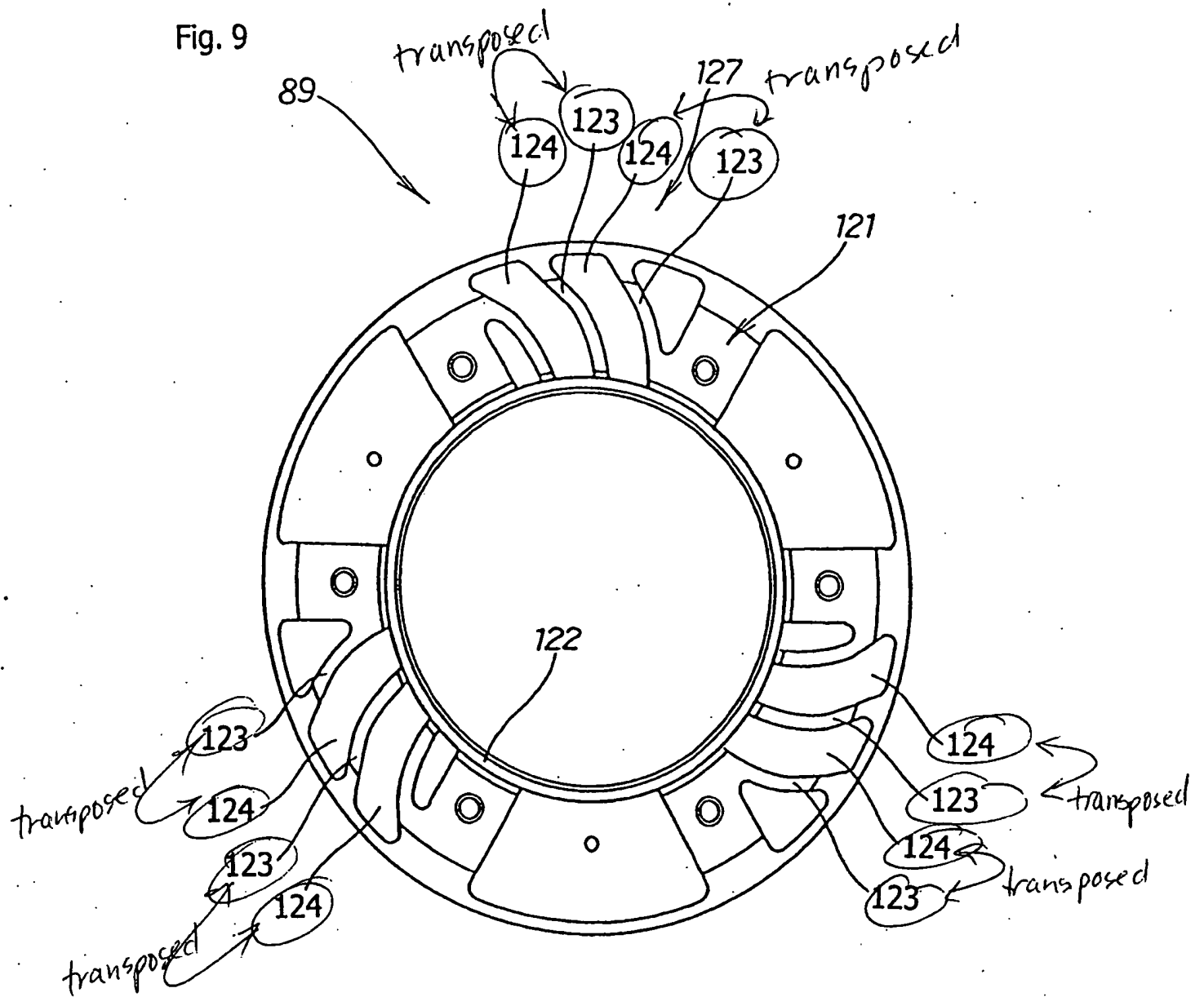
rhb
January 11, 2006

Fig. 7



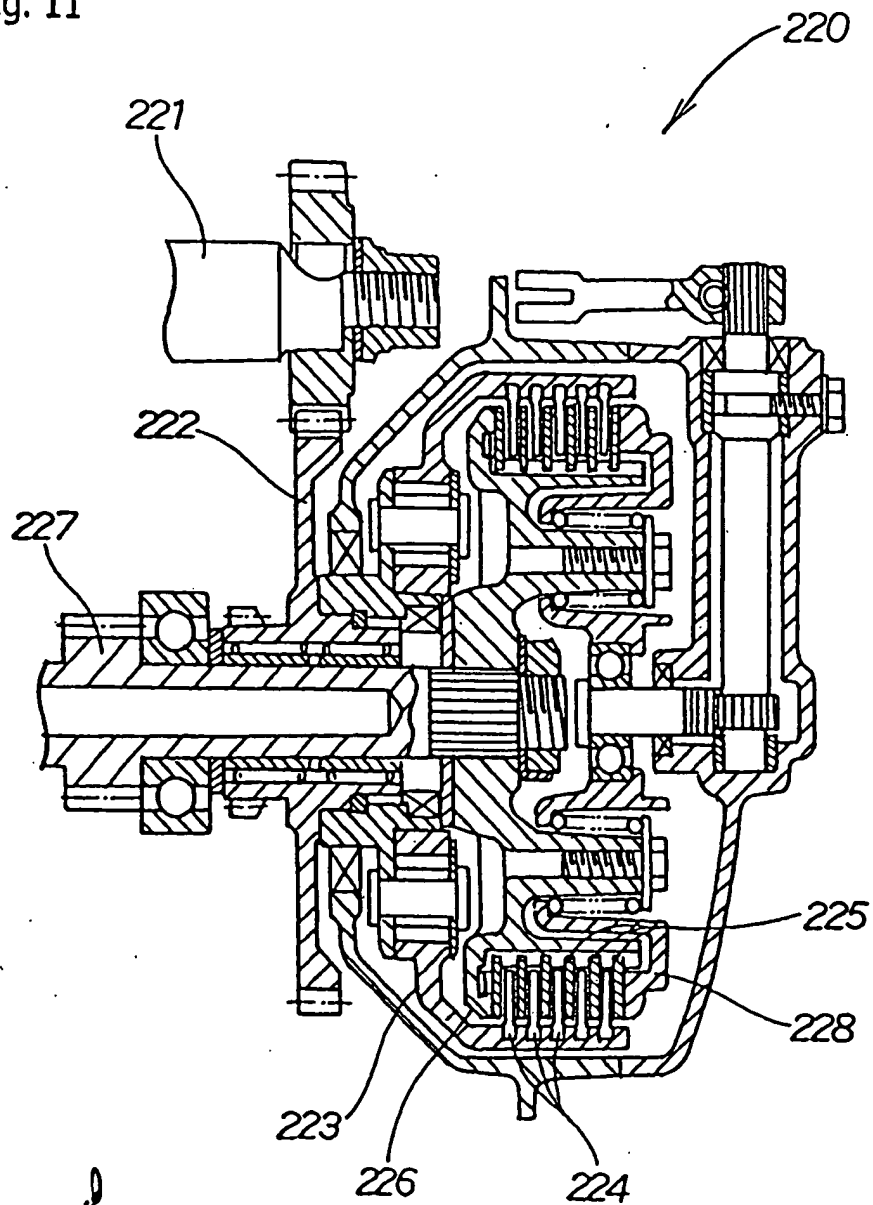
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Fig. 9



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04/14/06

Fig. 11



*Approved
RUB
04/14/06*

PRIOR ART

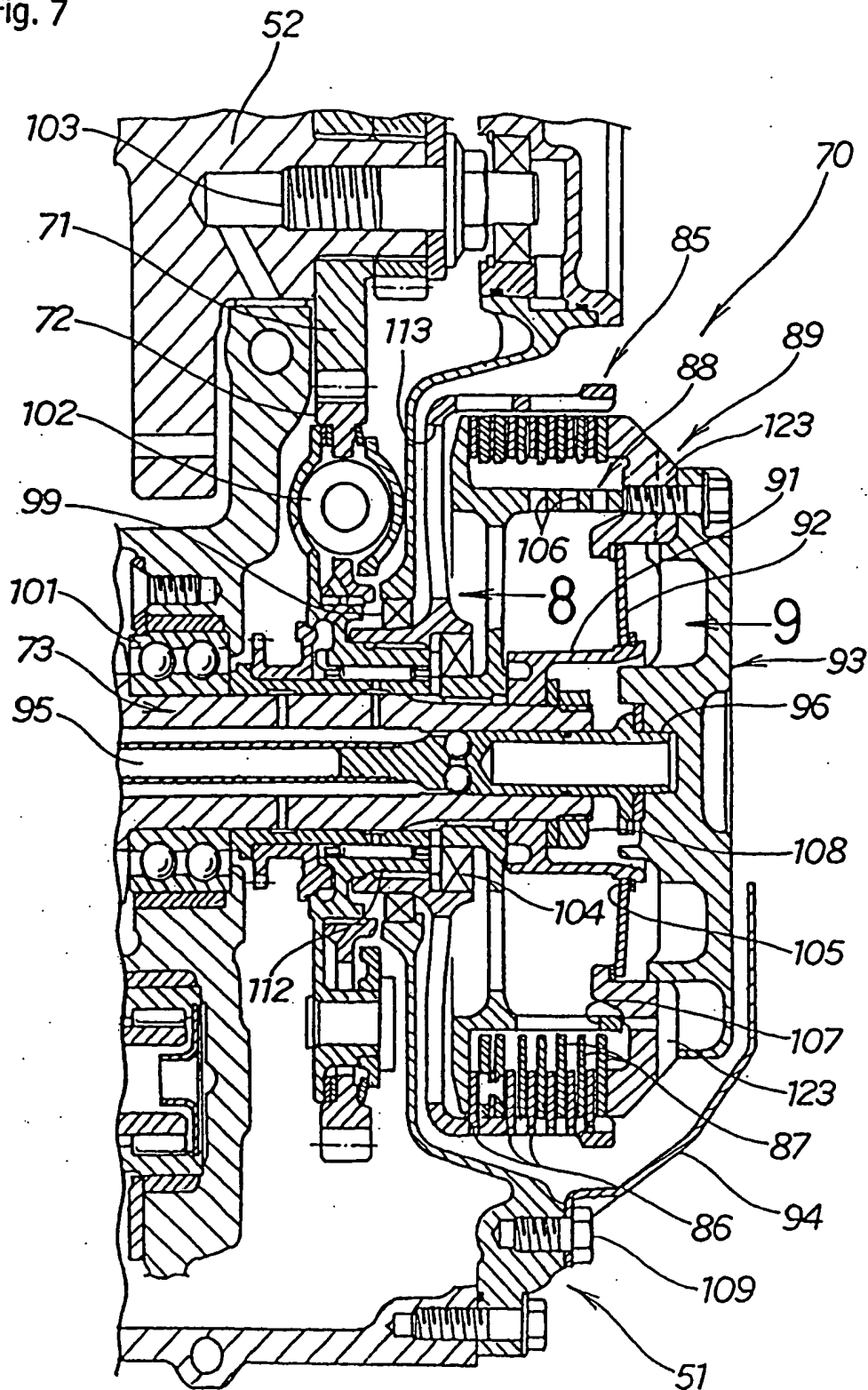
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REPLACEMENT SHEET



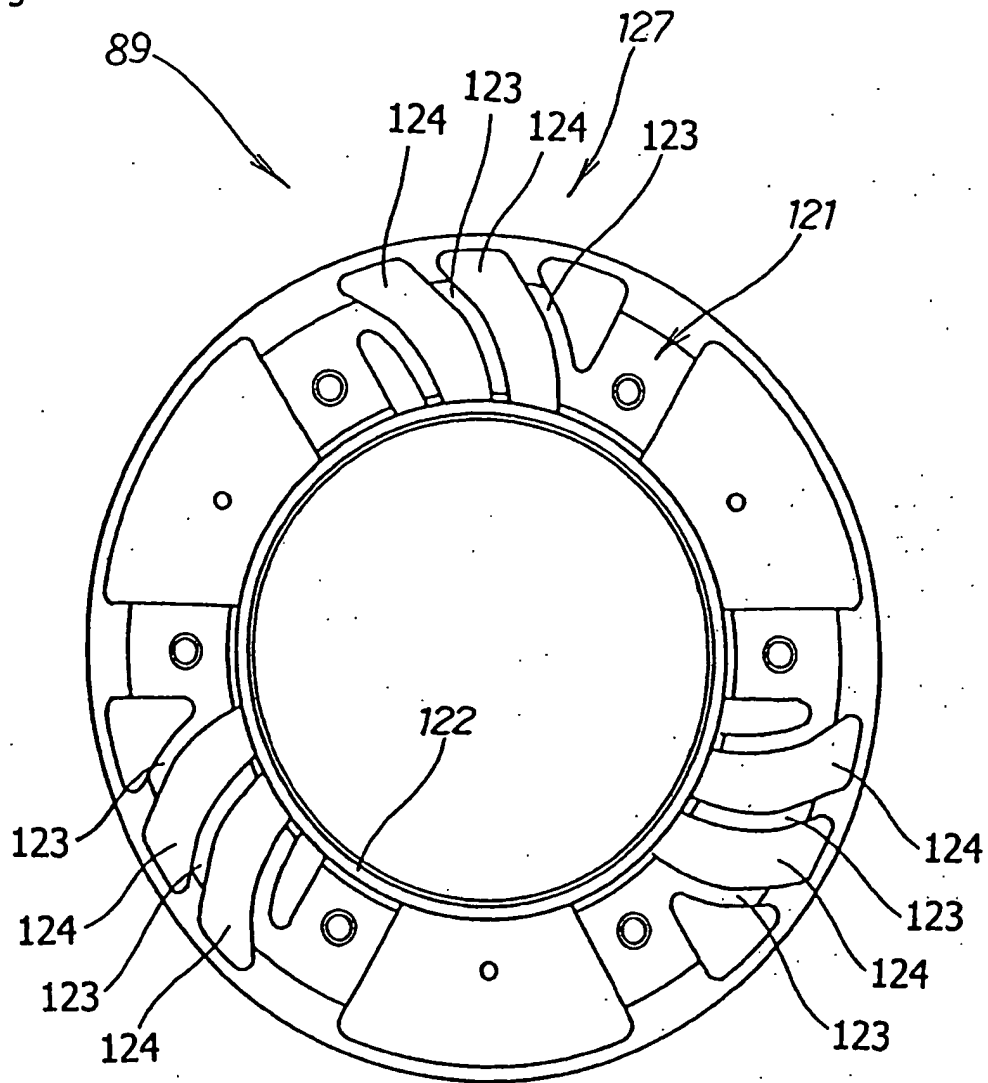
Fig. 7



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REPLACEMENT SHEET

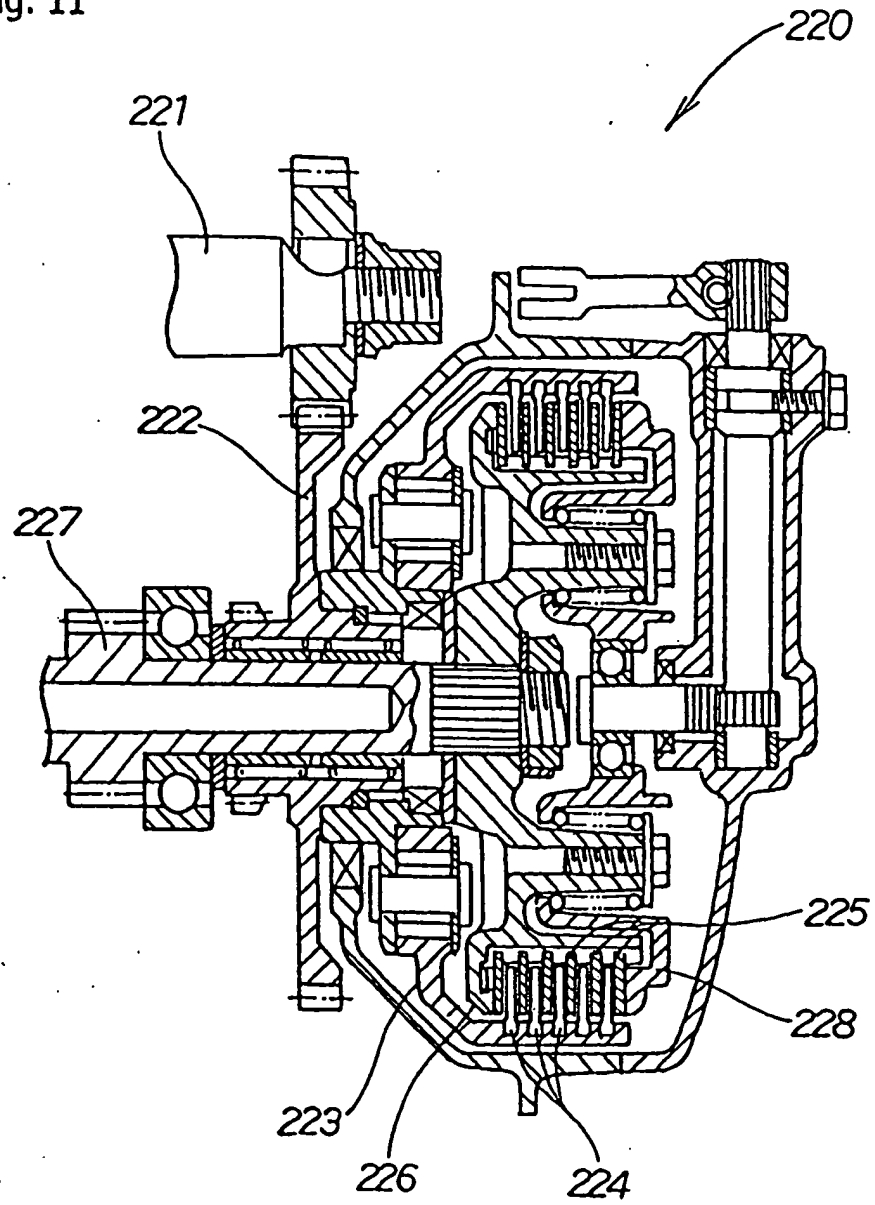
Fig. 9



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REPLACEMENT SHEET

Fig. 11



PRIOR ART